What is claimed is:

1.   A method for facilitating emergency logon, the method comprising:

(a)   providing a logon process that collects identification information and authentication information and provides access when identification information is authenticated by authentication information;

(b)   receiving a request for emergency logon from an entity;

(c)   collecting identification information from the entity; and

(d)   without authenticating the identification information collected from the entity, providing the entity with emergency access.

2.   The invention of Claim 1 further comprising:

(e)   alerting an administrator regarding the request for emergency logon.

3.   The invention of Claim 1 further comprising:

(e)   producing an audit log that is more detailed than an audit log produced when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.

4.   The invention of Claim 1, wherein the emergency access provided to the entity in (d) is the same as the access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.

5.   The invention of Claim 1, wherein the emergency access provided to the entity in (d) is different from the access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.

6.   The invention of Claim 5, wherein emergency access provides read-only access, and wherein access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information is not limited to read-only access.

7.   The invention of Claim 1, wherein the entity requests emergency logon by clicking on a displayed emergency logon button.

8.   The invention of Claim 1, wherein the information collected from the entity in (c) comprises at least one character.

9.   The invention of Claim 1, wherein the information collected from the entity in (c) comprises biometric information.

10.   The invention of Claim 1, wherein the method for emergency logon is implemented on a computer-based medical information system.

11.   A method for facilitating emergency logon, the method comprising:

    (a)   providing a workstation comprising a logon process that collects identification information and authentication information and operates in a first operating mode when identification information is authenticated by authentication information;

    (b)   receiving a request for emergency logon from an entity;

    (c)   collecting identification information from the entity; and

    (d)   without authenticating the identification information collected from the entity, operating the workstation in a second operating mode, the second operating mode being different from the first operating mode.

12.   The invention of Claim 11, wherein, in the second operating mode, an administrator is alerted regarding the request for emergency logon.

13.   The invention of Claim 11, wherein, in the second operating mode, an audit log is produced that is more detailed than an audit log produced in the first operating mode.

14.   The invention of Claim 11, wherein, in the second operating mode, read-only access is provided to data; and wherein, in the first operating mode, access to data is not limited to read-only access.

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15.   The invention of Claim 11, wherein the entity requests emergency logon by clicking on a displayed emergency logon button.

16.   The invention of Claim 11, wherein the information collected from the entity in (c) comprises at least one character.

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17.   The invention of Claim 11, wherein the information collected from the entity in (c) comprises biometric information.

18.   The invention of Claim 11, wherein the method for emergency logon is implemented on a computer-based medical information system.

19.   A method for facilitating emergency logon, the method comprising:

        (a)   providing a computer-based medical information system comprising a logon process that collects identification information and authentication information and

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provides access to medical data when identification information is authenticated by authentication information;

        (b)   displaying an emergency logon button;

        (c)   receiving a selection of the emergency logon button from an entity;

        (d)   collecting identification information from the entity;

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        (e)   without authenticating the identification information collected from the entity, providing the entity with read-only access to the medical data; and

        (f)   alerting an administrator regarding the request for emergency logon.

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20.   The invention of Claim 19 further comprising:

(g)   producing an audit log that is more detailed than an audit log produced when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.

21.   The invention of Claim 19, wherein the computer-based medical information system comprises a plurality of workstations, a local area network, a medical information database server, a domain server, and a network server.

22.   A system having an emergency logon feature, the system comprising:

a mechanism for collecting identification information and authentication information and providing access when identification information is authenticated by authentication information;

a mechanism for receiving a request for emergency logon from an entity;

a mechanism for collecting identification information from the entity; and

a mechanism for, without authenticating the identification information collected from the entity, providing the entity with emergency access.

23.   The invention of Claim 22 further comprising:

a mechanism for alerting an administrator regarding the request for emergency logon.

24.   The invention of Claim 22 further comprising:

a mechanism for producing an audit log that is more detailed than an audit log produced when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.

25.   The invention of Claim 22, wherein the emergency access provided to the entity is the same as the access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.

26.   The invention of Claim 22, wherein the emergency access provided to the entity is different from the access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information.

27.   The invention of Claim 26, wherein emergency access provides read-only access, and wherein access provided when identification information is authenticated by authentication information is not limited to read-only access.

28.   The invention of Claim 22, wherein the entity requests emergency logon by clicking on a displayed emergency logon button.

29.   The invention of Claim 22, wherein the information collected from the entity comprises at least one character.

30.   The invention of Claim 22, wherein the information collected from the entity comprises biometric information.

31.   The invention of Claim 22, wherein the system comprises a computer-based medical information system.